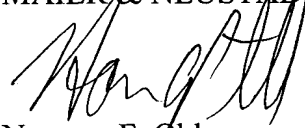


REMARKS

The application is ripe for examination on the merits. An early examination is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sept 24, 2001

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 44-46 (New).